



EPA Environmental News

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EPA ADDS AUSTIN AVENUE RADIATION SITE TO ITS NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST

PHILADELPHIA, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced that 29 properties included in the Austin Avenue Radiation Site have been added to the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's list of the nation's most serious hazardous waste sites. The listing is based on a 1991 Public Health Advisory from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a federal health agency.

The site now consists of 40 properties in five municipalities in southeastern Delaware County, Pennsylvania (southwest of Philadelphia). Twenty-nine of these properties were proposed for listing in February 1992. EPA also today proposed to add eight other contaminated properties to the NPL under the Austin Avenue Site designation. Work has already been completed at the three remaining properties.

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EPA began work at the site June 12, 1991 at 133 Austin Avenue in Lansdowne. Residents of the duplex were relocated after high levels of radiation were confirmed. This and subsequent relocations were supported by health consultations from ATSDR.

The suspected source of radioactive contamination is waste material from a defunct radium processing plant at 36 South Union Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. The W.L. Cummings Radium Processing Co. operated there from approximately 1915 to 1925. It is believed that tailings from the plant were mixed with building materials, thus contaminating the properties.

During the 1940's, a Cummings company consultant unknowingly contaminated property at 105-107 Stratford Avenue in Lansdowne. This site was formerly on the NPL as the Lansdowne Radiation Site. This site cleanup was completed in 1988.

The Ausitn Avenue properties now listed on the NPL include:

Lansdowne Borough:

- 36 South Union Avenue (former radium plant)
- 133 Austin Avenue
- 131 Austin Avenue
- 136 Austin Avenue
- 216 Wayne Avenue
- 218 Wayne Avenue
- 6 East Plumstead Avenue
- 10 East Plumstead Avenue
- 16 East Plumstead Avenue
- 237 North Lansdowne Avenue
- 11 East Greenwood Avenue
- 126 Owen Avenue

East Lansdowne Borough:

- 34 Lewis Avenue
- 211 Penn Boulevard
- 246 Melrose Avenue
- 25 Lexington Avenue
- 25 Beverly Avenue
- 13 Lexington Avenue
- 15 Lexington Avenue

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SUPERFUND REMEDIAL (long-term cleanup) PROCESS

Response Actions:	Community Relations Activities:
<> Conduct Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (At this site, this includes the Chem Nuclear and Weston studies)	<> Establish Repository Draft Community Relations Plan
<> Prepare Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Reports	<> Maintain contact with local community
<> Issue Proposed Remedial Action Plan	<> Mail summary of plan Advertise in newspaper Conduct public meeting
<> Prepare Record of Decision	<> Public comments (30 days) Meeting transcript
<> Issue Record of Decision	<> Responsiveness summary Advertise in newspaper
<> Begin Remedial Design	<> Community relations interviews Update Community Relations Plan
<> Present Remedial Design Complete Remedial Design	<> Public Meeting
<> Begin Remedial Action	<> Maintain contact

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Aldan Borough:

64 South Clifton Avenue

Darby Borough:

617 Pine Street

619 Pine Street

621 Pine Street

623 Pine Street

Upper Darby Township:

500 Harper Avenue

504 Harper Avenue

346 Owen Avenue

310 Shadeland Avenue

3723 Huey Avenue

Proposed properties include:

Lansdowne Borough:

219 Wayne Avenue

42 South Union Avenue

East Lansdowne Borough:

28 Lewis Avenue

210 Lewis Avenue

139 Lexington Avenue

155 Lexington Avenue (East Lansdowne Borough garage)

Yeadon Borough:

Yeadon Community Park

Aldan Borough

62 South Clifton Avenue

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